

PREFERENCE AND DECISION MAKING OF DIFFERENT VOCATIONS DURING ADOLESCENCE

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ABSTRACT

The present study was aimed to investigate the preference of choosing a vocation and the person responsible in deciding a vocation during adolescence. The final sample of the study comprised of 588 subjects, randomly selected from 10th and intermediate classes of schools and Junior colleges in Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh, India. The subjects were within the age group of 15-17 years. Among the 588 subjects, 376 were boys and 212 were girls. To gather the data Vocational Interest Scale (VIS) and Parental Aspiration Scale (PAS) were used. The obtained data was analyzed by using analysis of variance. Results revealed that majority of fathers; mothers and adolescent boys aspired vocations in the areas of modern technology followed by executive vocations. For girls, majority of fathers, mothers and girls themselves aspired vocations in the areas of science followed by vocations in the areas of artistic. It was also found that together parents and the child come to a decision regarding the future vocation.

KEYWORDS: Vocational Interests, Preference, Decision, Parents, Adolescent Boys & Adolescent Girls

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INTRODUCTION

The interest of an individual in various vocations in life is called as vocational interest. Vocational interests usually begin during the adolescent period. The problem of deciding on and preparing for a vocation represents one of the major developmental tasks of adolescence. All parents will have certain expectations and aspirations regarding their child's future. Parental aspiration is the concerned desire or wish of the parents regarding their children's future. Parents weave a lot of hopes and dreams about their child's future. On certain occasions parental vocational aspirations may not found to be in accordance with the basic potential of the children. Turbulence, frustrations and misgivings may arise in the family when parental aspiration and vocational interests differ. Parents serve as a major influence in their children's vocational development and vocational decision-making. This is important because studies show that adolescents, who feel competent regarding career decision-making, tend to make more satisfying vocational choices later in life. (Keller 2008).

Objectives

- To find out the vocations preferred by adolescent boys and their parents
- To find the vocations preferred by adolescent girls and their parents.
- To know the person deciding on the future vocation of the adolescents.

METHODOLOGY

Sample

The present investigation was aimed to find out whose decision will be considered in the selection of a vocation for the child. Sample consisted of 588 adolescents and their parents, 588 fathers and 588 mothers. All the students studying tenth and intermediate classes of Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh, India, constituted the population. Multi staged random sampling is used in selecting the 588 subjects of the present study. The sampling units being District(Guntur); Mandals (Urban and Rural); Institutions(colleges and High schools); Sections and the Students. Every grade and both sexes were representative of the population. The subjects were within the age group of 15-17 years.

Tools

- Vocational Interest Scale (VIS) developed by the investigator was used to collect the information. Validity and reliability was established. Test retest reliability was computed using coefficient of correlation. The value obtained was 0.76 which was considered reasonably high and was therefore accepted.
- Parental Aspiration Scale (PAS) developed by the investigator was used to collect the information. Validity and reliability was established. Test retest reliability was computed using coefficient of correlation. The value obtained was 0.71 which was considered reasonably high and was therefore accepted.

Data Collection

After establishing proper rapport necessary information was gathered and the data was analysed using Analysis of variance.

RESULTS

Both the parents were asked to give the most preferred vocation for their children and similar information was obtained from adolescents also. The vocations preferred were categorised into 10 areas of vocational interests and are presented in Table 1 and Figure 1.

Table 1: Distribution of Fathers, Mothers and Adolescents as Per Their Vocational Preference

Area Of Vocation	Fathers				Mothers				Adolescents			
	Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Science	30	8	62	29	38	10	57	27	48	13	38	18
Executive	76	20	14	7	72	19	22	10	51	14	18	9
Clerical	14	4	13	6	21	6	16	8	18	5	14	7
Business	28	7	9	4	31	8	11	5	31	8	12	6
Self Employment	36	10	15	7	28	7	7	3	38	10	20	9
Modern Technology	85	23	16	8	84	22	21	10	92	25	20	9
Literary	11	3	11	5	18	5	14	7	19	5	21	10
Persuasive	38	10	21	10	36	10	24	11	32	9	15	7
Humanitarian	27	7	9	4	19	5	12	6	24	6	22	10
Artistic	31	8	42	20	29	8	28	13	23	6	32	15

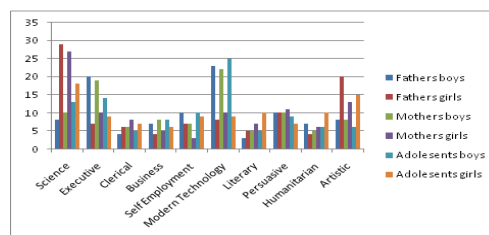


Figure 1: Distribution of Fathers, Mothers and Adolescents as per their Vocational Preference

Among the 10 vocational interest areas, modern technology was found to be predominantly popular. Majority of fathers (23%) and mothers (22%) and adolescent boys (25%) aspired vocations in the areas of modern technology. In the case of girls, majority of fathers (29%), mothers (27%) and girls themselves (18%) aspired the vocations in the area of Science. This was followed by artistic area with 20% of fathers, 13 % of mothers and 15% of girls aspiring for it. The least preferred vocations by fathers for boys were in the areas of literary (3%) and clerical (4%). Similarly only few percent of mothers opted for vocations in the areas of literary (5%) and humanitarian (5%) for boys. The least preferred vocations by adolescent boys were in the areas of clerical (5%), literary (5%), humanitarian (6%) and artistic(6%). The least preferred vocations by fathers for girls were in the areas of business (4%), and humanitarian (4%). Similarly only less percentage of mothers opted for vocations in the areas of self employment (3%) and business (5%) and humanitarian (6%) for girls. The least preferred vocations by girls were in the areas of business (6%), clerical (7%) and persuasive (7%).

Modern technology and science seemed to be the fascinating vocations, for the adolescents and parents among the 10 areas of vocations. The literary and clerical areas were found to be unattractive and only few parents and adolescents aspired for the vocations in these areas. Similar results were reported by Chadha (1982) that, engineering was the most preferred and literary as the least preferred vocation among adolescents. Gender stereotypes were observed in the vocations of executive and artistic areas. Parents and adolescent boys showed more preference towards vocations in the area of executive. Higher percentage of parents and adolescent girls opted for vocation in the artistic area. This result was consistent with the findings of Kniveton's (2004), where he found a large percentage of students stated that their parents often gave advice in a gender-stereotyped way (e.g. females were advised into stereotyped female roles while males were encouraged to obtain more typically —masculine roles. Verma and Sharma (1987), who reported artistic area as the dominant vocational interest of girls, Raj Kumar (2017) and Anup Singh (2014) study revealed that, the girls were slightly more interested in literary, commercial, constructive, artistic, social and household fields. In case of scientific, executive, agriculture and persuasive fields, boys were slightly more interested than that of girls.

Parents influence children's vocational aspiration, in a study by Helwig (1998), parents somehow express their expectations from their children, about which vocation they (children) should have and children pursue their vocational aspiration to meet their parents' expectations. Parents' gender is also another influential factor in children's vocational aspirations.

In the present study parents were also asked to indicate whose decision will be given importance while selecting a future vocation for the child and their responses were presented in Table 2 and Figure 2.

Table 2: Parental Responses Regarding who Decides the Vocation for the Child. N=588

Parent	Child		Parent		Both	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Father	130	22.1	70	12	388	65.9
Mother	128	21.7	70	12	390	66.3

Nearly 22% of the parents reported that they give freedom to their child to select which ever vocation he or she prefers. Sometimes parents have certain unfulfilled desires and they try to fulfil them through their children. Twelve percent of fathers and mothers said that they decide the future vocation for their child. It may be remarkable that there is nothing wrong in choosing a vocation by the parents as being their well wishers and guardians,. However child's interests and abilities must be taken into consideration while choosing a vocation for them. It was interesting to observe from table 2, that majority of fathers (66%) and mothers (66%) reported that they would discuss with the child and together come to a decision regarding the future vocation of the child.

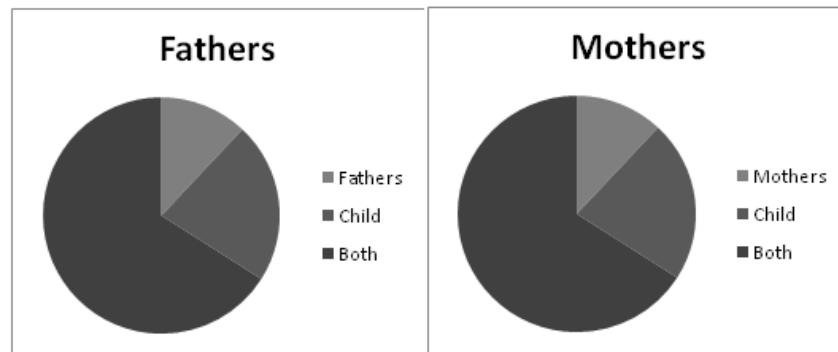


Figure 2: Parental Responses Regarding who Decides the Vocation for the Child

CONCLUSIONS

- Majority of fathers, mothers and adolescent boys aspired vocations in the areas of modern technology followed by executive vocations.
- For girls, majority of fathers, mothers and girls themselves aspired vocations in the areas of science followed by vocations in the areas of artistic.
- Majority of fathers and mothers discuss with the child and together come to a decision regarding the future vocation of the child.

The present study will be helpful for the parents, counsellors to guide the adolescents to choose avocation of their choice and interest. This study can be helpful to have a happy family atmosphere if the parents and the adolescent decide together and choose a vocation which can lead to success in their future.

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